

MGN:10/23/52
D R A F T

1. There are strong indications that the next power center may be focused around Malenkov-Molotov-Beria.

2. Beria, controlling the Security Forces, holds the balance of power. Therefore, in any ensuing struggle for power after Stalin's death either Malenkov or Molotov factions must gain support of Beria to succeed.

3. Whereas the peoples of the USSR identify themselves more or less with the Red Army, made up as it is of their sons and fathers, they hate and distrust the Security Forces. It would therefore appear that the Red Army, particularly its top leadership, represents a better target for our propaganda.

a. The Red Army leaders realize their subordinate position in the general scheme of things. The latest indication of this is the demotion of Marshalls Budenny and Timoshenko from full to candidate membership in the Central Committee of the party.

(NOTE: Marshall Zhukov has reappeared, also with candidate membership.)

b. The Red Army sees and has seen something of the outside world and is considered unreliable from that standpoint. They fear the Security Forces on this point.

c. Many restrictions imposed on the Red Army are strictly political in nature and therefore are resented even more.

d. The Red Army must fear any power struggle with its consequent purges which they are sure to feel.